



Once More Unto the Breach

I want to thank all of you who responded to *ARMOR*'s reader survey. The results have not yet been analyzed, but the response was quite overwhelming and many of your recommendations are being reviewed for possible implementation in future editions.

In just one year, the people of Iraq have been liberated from an evil regime and the seeds of democracy have been sown. Our fighting forces are continuing their stalwart efforts of restoring order from chaos. For units preparing to deploy to Iraq, this issue of *ARMOR* offers several articles from Soldiers currently serving in Iraq that will assist you in training and preparing your units for deployment.

Convoy operations in Iraq have proven to be the biggest risk to Army units and Soldiers, and have been used by the enemy to disrupt, torment, and inflict havoc on our troopers. Captain Klaudius K. Robinson's article, "Defeating the Threat in Iraq Through the Combined Arms Convoy Concept (CAC2)," explains weaknesses in our training program and discusses how his unit continues to adjust against an unconventional, asymmetrical, and adaptive threat in Iraq. He provides numerous examples of how his unit adapts tactics and procedures to respond to this elusive threat.

Initial observations from Iraq seem to validate the success of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team. In his article, "Fighting the Stryker Rifle Company," Captain Robert Thornton discusses the tactical operations and flexibility of the Stryker rifle company in the offense, and how capabilities are built into its organization. The Stryker rifle company's offensive and defensive mission employments are extremely diverse, lethal, and include 20 various types of Strykers and organic combat multipliers. His article is based on company-level training executed prior to the Stryker initial operation test and evaluation.

In his article, "Aerial Insertions — Planning Considerations for the Brigade Reconnaissance Troop," Captain Brian P. Stevens discusses how air inserting elements of the BRT can have significant payoff for the brigade combat team in both information collecting and fire support, but it requires detailed planning and coordination within the BCT and with the division to be successful. By employing an aggressive and deep intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance plan, a BCT can attain a significant tactical advantage over an enemy force, which ultimately contributes to the success of an offensive operation.

The debate on how a scout platoon should be equipped, trained, and resourced has been around for years. Staff Sergeant Matthew Mayo jumps into the fray in his article, "Adjustments to the Task Force Scout Platoon." A veteran of combat operations in Iraq, Mayo lends credibility to the debate in advocating for changing personnel manning, communications, equipment, and weapons of the scout platoon.

Longtime *ARMOR* contributor, Professor Richard Ogorkiewicz returns with his latest article, "Armor and Future Urban Warfare," which examines the necessity of using armor in urban operations, therefore, armor should be prepared to play a major role in future urban operations. He argues for the development of new technology in armament, protection, and mobility to adapt to the requirements of fighting and surviving in an urban environment.

In the November-December 2002 issue of *ARMOR*, Major William J. VandenBergh's "Executing the Double Retrograde Delay," was published in honor of the 194th Tank Battalion's bravery during the Luzon defensive campaign. VandenBergh continues his tribute to the soldiers of 194th Tank Battalion in this issue. "Employing an Armor QRF in the Area Defense: The 194th Tank Battalion in action during the Luzon Defensive Campaign 1941-42," expands on the 194th Tank Battalion's action in the Philippines, and offers an historical battle analysis. VandenBergh further explores the valiant role of the 194th Tank Battalion in delaying the Japanese attempts at conquering the Philippines.

Lessons learned on combat operations in Iraq continue to emerge. The U.S. Army is fortunate to have adaptive and creative leaders at all levels who recognize that sometimes our training fails to fit reality. Sergeant First Class Timothy L. Gray provides his thoughts in, "Time for a Change in Tank Gunnery." Gray identifies the shortcomings of our current gunnery program when compared with what is happening on the ground in Iraq and offers solutions that units can implement with little disruption.

ARMOR appreciates the positive comments, as well as the creative criticism, from the field. It is our intent to keep providing our dedicated readers with quality, timely, and well-written articles. Please keep sending your thoughts, ideas, and articles.

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